

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of processing financial instrument data to identify stock option spreads, in a computer system, comprising:
  - receiving financial data from at least one data source;
  - processing the financial data to derive values for a set of searchable parameters corresponding to stock option spreads;
  - receiving user defined search criteria for searching the searchable parameters corresponding to the stock option spreads;
  - searching the values derived for the set of searchable parameters for values having the user defined search criteria; and
  - identifying a set of option spreads corresponding to values for the set of searchable parameters matching the user defined search criteria.

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2. The method of claim 1, wherein said step of processing the financial data to derive values for a set of searchable parameters corresponding to stock

option spreads comprises processing the financial data to derive values for at least one of the following: bull-put spreads; bear call spreads; collar spreads; strangle spreads; butterfly spreads; straddle spreads; and calendar spreads.

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3. The method of claim 1, wherein said step of set of processing the financial data to derive values for a set of searchable parameters corresponding to stock option spreads comprises processing the financial data to derive values for at least one of the following searchable parameters: Black-Scholes ratio; option volume percentage; implied volatility; percentage to double; industry groupings; recommended listings; and percentage return on an option spread.

4. The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
transmitting to a user a series of questions regarding investment preferences;  
receiving responses to said series of questions; and  
formulating from said responses, search criteria for searching the searchable parameters.

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5. The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
receiving a request to execute a particular  
option strategy; and

5 forwarding said request to execute a particular  
option strategy to a brokerage computer system operable  
to execute trades on stocks and stock options, wherein  
said request to execute a particular option strategy  
entails executing trades on a plurality of stock options.

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10 6. The method of claim 1, wherein said step  
of identifying a set of option spreads comprises  
formatting a listing of option strategies corresponding  
to values derived for said set of searchable parameters  
15 matching the user defined search criteria.

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7. The method of claim 1, wherein said step  
of formatting a listing of option spreads comprises  
formatting a chain of option strategies, said chain of  
20 option spreads including a list of option spreads having  
options expiring in the same month.

8. A method for formulating searches of

financial instruments in a computer system, comprising:

transmitting to a user a series of questions  
regarding investment preferences;

receiving responses to said series of  
questions;

formulating from said responses, search  
criteria; and

executing a search of a searchable database of  
financial instruments using said search criteria.

9. A method for processing trades in a  
computer system of financial instrument strategies  
including multiple financial instruments, comprising:

receiving a request to execute a trade of a  
financial instrument strategy;

formulating a trade request defining trades to  
be executed on a plurality of financial instruments  
included in the financial instrument strategy; and  
routing the trade request to a brokerage.

10. A system for processing financial  
instrument data to identify stock option spreads,  
comprising:

a communication device for receiving data from external systems;

5 a processing device in communication with said communication device, wherein said processing device is programmed to perform the following:

receive financial data via said communication device from at least one data source;

10 process the financial data to derive values for a set of searchable parameters corresponding to stock option spreads;

15 receive user defined search criteria for searching the searchable parameters corresponding to the stock option spreads;

search the values derived for the set of searchable parameters for values having the user defined search criteria; and

20 identify a set of option spreads corresponding to values for the set of searchable parameters matching the user defined search criteria.

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